

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues, we should be working to make sure that all students have that opportunity, not just a few. I urge the Members of the House to conduct and to support legislation in that way.

#### ORCA WHALE PODS

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the recent capture of orca whales off the coast of Japan. Earlier this month five orca whales were netted and separated from their whale family, called a pod. A whale pod, like a human family unit, is vital for the survival of orcas. These captured orcas are scheduled to be sold to marine amusement parks and a whale museum.

The capture of orcas was allowed under a permit to gather them for research purposes. Clearly, the use of whales for business and entertainment purposes blatantly violates the conditions of the permit.

It is my understanding that orca pods appear very infrequently in Japanese waters. Destroying even one orca pod can cause great harm to the small orca population in that area.

The captured orca pod will certainly suffer as a result of so many of its members being separated, and could even cause the pod's complete disintegration. I cannot condone this act and will do whatever I can to see that the five whales are released immediately.

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#### GIVE TEACHERS A BREAK

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk in Washington these days about education. The President is talking about education. Business people are talking about education. At just about every level someone is talking about education, and every politician I bump into wants to talk about education.

But as a former two-term State superintendent of schools, I can tell you talk is cheap, ladies and gentlemen. That is why last week I went into the classroom and began a program I call Give Teachers a Break. I took over a history and political science class and taught a group of students in Lee County High School in Sanford, NC in an effort to really give a teacher a break.

This program puts Congressmen in the classroom where children are so they can understand what is happening day in and day out with a teacher, the problems they face, the difficulties of education, so we can learn from what is happening and we can look into the face of the next generation and have a reminder of what is at stake.

I am proud that a number of my colleagues in this House have already decided to join in this program, and I challenge every Member of the U.S. Congress to do it. Mr. Speaker, it is no great feat to talk the talk on education. Today I challenge every Member to walk the walk and give a teacher a break.

#### MAKE COLLEGE DEGREES ACCESSIBLE

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, in today's America the price of the American dream comes attached to a college tuition bill. Yet rising college costs are steadily making that dream a mirage for many working families. In all too many cases, parents face the awful choice between deep debt and telling their child something they could never have imagined: "We'd like to send you to college, but, we're sorry, we simply can't afford it."

One of our Nation's great poets once asked, "What happens to a dream deferred?" If college tuitions remain out of reach for average American families, we will find the answer to that question in a lost generation of our children.

Mr. Speaker, we must make the American dream a reality again before college degrees become the exclusive possession of the privileged. We must make it a reality again so college degrees can serve as pathways to a lifetime of opportunity.

The best way to start is for this Congress to pass President Clinton's plan to increase the Pell Grant Program. We all know that a college degree is not a right and the American dream is not an entitlement, but it is our duty to make college degrees accessible, and by doing so we can make the American dream a reality for millions of people who want nothing more than a chance to get ahead.

#### AMERICANS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE ON THE RISE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to draw attention today to an article that was on the front page of the New York Times that found through a recent survey that the number of uninsured in New York City is dramatically on the rise. I am talking about the national crisis of health insurance and the fact that increasingly more and more Americans have no health insurance. This of course was in New York City, but it has implications nationwide.

Interestingly enough, the biggest problem is with children, children that have no health insurance. We know that the President has put forward a proposal to expand health insurance

options for children so that more and more children are insured, and I think that this report, which I will call more attention to in the next few weeks, really explains why that is important.

It says right here that most uninsured families in the city make between \$15,000 and \$45,000 a year. These are working people. And the report found the number of children without insurance has gone up twice as fast as the number of adults. This was a report that was put out by the New York City public advocate Mark Green, and in his report it also finds that the proportion of children who have no health insurance rose to almost 20 percent in 1995, up from 14 percent in 1990.

The report is very informative because it really throws aside a lot of the myths that we have about who is not getting the health insurance. It is the working people, it is the children, it is the people that have a lot to contribute to this society, and we need to address it in this Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SOLOMON). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall vote, if postponed, will be taken on Wednesday, February 26, 1997.

#### AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND TAX REINSTATEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 668) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the Airport and Airway Trust Fund excise taxes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 668

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Airport and Airway Trust Fund Tax Reinstatement Act of 1997".

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

#### SEC. 2. REINSTATEMENT OF AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND EXCISE TAXES.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—

(1) AVIATION FUEL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 4091(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) The rate of tax specified in paragraph (1) shall be 4.3 cents per gallon—